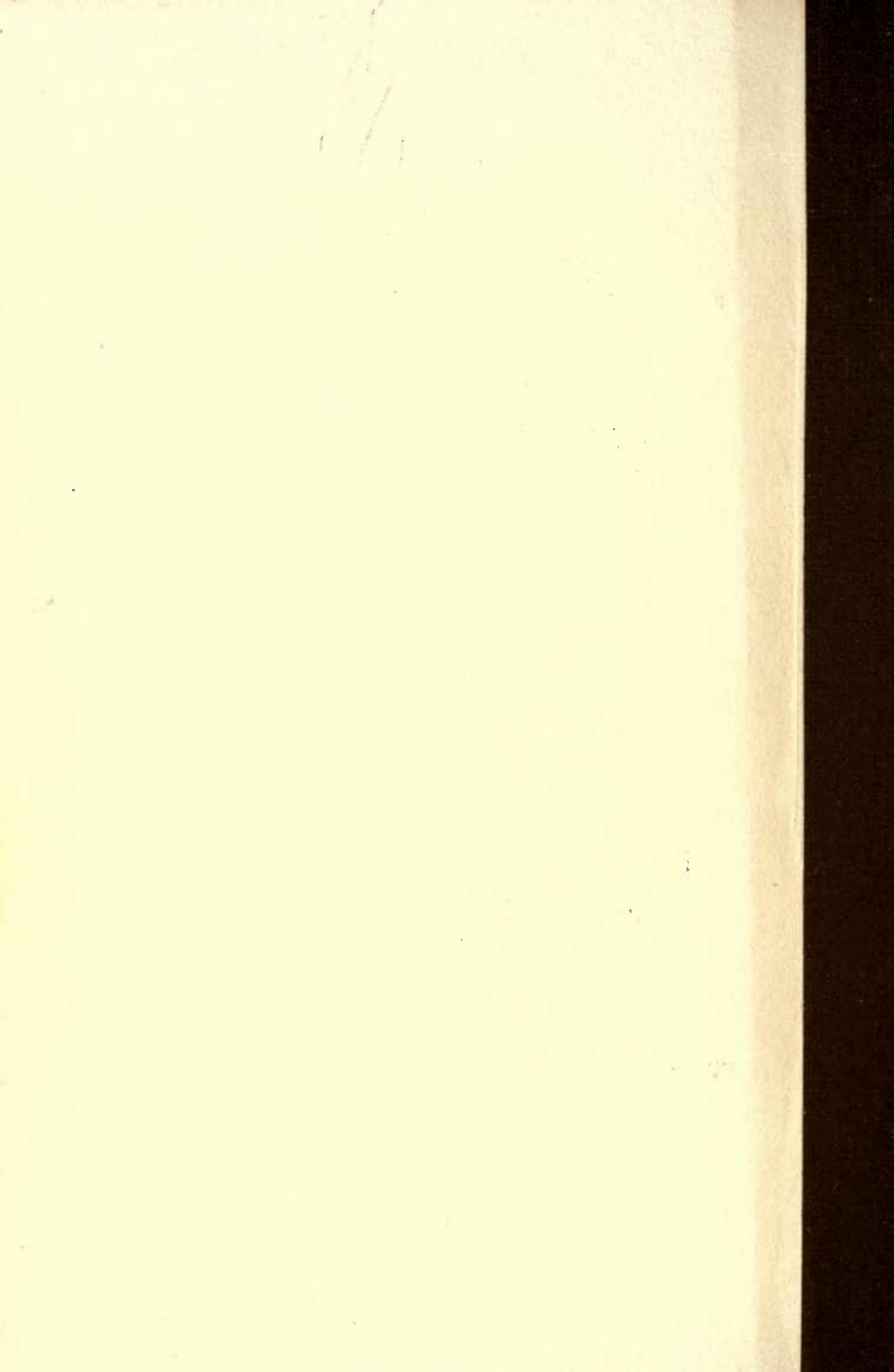


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THE NATURE AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE LIBRARY COLLECTION

With special reference
to
the small and medium-sized
public library

Papers presented at an Institute
conducted by
THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS LIBRARY SCHOOL
November 11 - 14, 1956

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FOREWORD

The Institute on the Nature and Development of the Library Collection, held November 11-14, 1956, at Robert Allerton Park, a University-owned country estate near Monticello, Illinois, was the third of a series of institutes offered for professional librarians of Illinois and other states by the University of Illinois Library School in cooperation with the Division of University Extension. The preceeding two were the Institute on School Library Supervision (October 1954) and the Institute on Developing the Library's Personnel Program (September 1955).

From the outset, speakers and prospective registrants for the 1956 Institute were urged to center their attention upon one specific group of libraries--public libraries of small and medium size--and their problems. As the initial invitation to speakers expressed it:

It is hoped that speakers will take a close look at the library collection as it is in the small and medium-sized public library of the mid-20th century--its strengths and weaknesses, its size, the considerations affecting its growth and development, the purposes for which it exists, and the differing types of materials it provides to satisfy these purposes.

Speakers were further urged to flavor theory with fact by drawing freely upon their own experiences for interesting and helpful examples and, if speaking on a specific type of material, to provide a list of "practical, inexpensive, up-to-date (even unusual and informal) aids in selection" of such material.

As the contents of these papers reveal, the librarian's interest in and knowledge of materials per se must be matched, especially in the small and medium-sized public library, by an equal interest in and knowledge of persons associated with providing these materials, such as the wholesaler and the state librarian--not only the part they play in developing library collections, but their particular problems and practices

as well.

The topic of censorship is, of course, central to any consideration of the library collection--what censorship is, how censorship differs from selection, the areas in which censorship is likely to arise, the causes and effects of censorship. Thus it seemed appropriate to conclude the Institute with a paper on this subject, again related (like the whole Institute) particularly to the small and medium-sized public library.

Planning the Institute rested with a committee of the Library School faculty, composed of Thelma Eaton, Frances B. Jenkins, Harold Lancour (ex officio) and Donald E. Strout, chairman. But this, of course, was only the "beginning of things". The progress and conduct of the Institute (and whatever measure of success it may have enjoyed) was, in the last analysis, the willing work of many hands. First, a word of thanks to the other members of the Library School faculty for helping in innumerable ways; special thanks to the staff of the Extension Division and of Allerton House for their careful cooperation and numerous courtesies at every stage of the Institute; and a word of gratitude to the several paperback publishers and to the A. C. McClurg Co. of Chicago for supplying paperbound and hardbound books, respectively, for exhibit. But last of all--and indeed most of all--a word of appreciation to the speakers and the registrants at the Institute, without whose eager and enthusiastic participation, the efforts of all the others, however well-intended, could have come to naught.

DONALD E. STROUT
F. THELMA EATON
Editors

Urbana, Illinois
March 15, 1957

Correction

In the Table of Contents and on p. 26, the author of "Books for Children and Young People" should read Elizabeth Nesbitt.

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